

**From:** "Adams, Ben C." <badams@bakerdonelson.com>  
**To:** btaylor@memphistomorrow.org  
"William Gibbons \(\wgibbons\)" <wgibbons@memphis.edu>  
**Date:** 5/15/2017 3:56:21 PM  
**Subject:** FW: MPD director: Staffing at 'unacceptable level,' needs more officers / CA today

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This is very disappointing rhetoric. Shows no flexibility or desire for doing things differently and goes against Ray Kelly analysis as well.

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From: Whittle, Julie  
Sent: Monday, May 15, 2017 2:43 PM  
To: Adams, Ben C.  
Subject: MPD director: Staffing at 'unacceptable level,' needs more officers / CA today

Memphis needs at least 2,500 police officers to "do our job," Police Director Michael Rallings said in a podcast Monday, giving one of the clearest answers yet to the question of how many officers the city needs to combat its "unacceptable" crime levels.

The Memphis Police Department had 1,943 officers as of last week but needs "exactly" 2,500, Rallings said in the [introductory episode](#) of Just City Memphis' new podcast Permanent Record. For quality service, the city should really have 2,600, he added.

"That's a real number based off of call demand, crime, population and the geographical location that we have to protect," Rallings said.

Mayor Jim Strickland earlier this year announced plans to increase the number of police officers to 2,300 by 2020, but hesitated to say how many officers the city needs without further study. But Monday, Rallings said even 2,400 was "grossly under what we need."

"Our staffing level has really taken a hit," he said, referring to the previous administration's decision to reduce police training in response to the Great Recession. "We're at an unacceptable level and we've seen crime go back in a wrong direction."

Last year, Strickland estimated the city would need to spend \$14 million for every 250-officer increase, putting the total cost of an increase to 2,500 at more than \$28 million.

Julie A. Whittle  
Legal Secretary for Ben C. Adams, Jr.,  
Bill O'Connor, Drew Yonchak and  
McCauley Williams  
Baker, Donelson, Bearman, Caldwell & Berkowitz, PC  
165 Madison Avenue, Suite 2000  
Memphis, Tennessee 38103  
Phone: (901) 577-2202  
Fax: (901) 577-4294  
[jwhittle@bakerdonelson.com](mailto:jwhittle@bakerdonelson.com)  
<http://www.bakerdonelson.com>

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